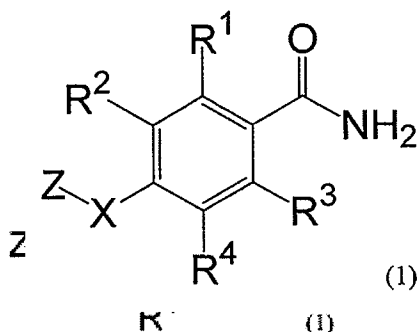


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A compound represented by formula (1):



wherein X is a single bond or a substituted or unsubstituted lower alkylene group (the -CH₂- group(s) of said lower alkylene group may be substituted by one or more groups which may be the same or different and are selected from groups represented by the formulas: -O-, -S(O)_n-, -N(R⁵)-, -N(R⁶)C(=O)-, ~~C(=O)N(R⁶)~~-, -N(R⁶)S(O)₂-, -S(O)₂N(R⁶)- and -C(=O)-, benzene ring and cycloalkane rings (the -CH₂- group(s) in said cycloalkane ring may be substituted by one or more groups which may be the same or different and are selected from groups represented by the formulas: -O-, -S-, -N(R⁷)- and -C(=O)-), and a combination(s) of any adjacent two carbon atoms of said lower alkylene group may form one or more double or triple bonds which may be the same or different);

Z is a saturated or unsaturated monocyclic hydrocarbon ring group, ~~a saturated or unsaturated polycyclic hydrocarbon ring group, a saturated or unsaturated monocyclic heterocyclic group, or a saturated or unsaturated polycyclic heterocyclic group~~ (these groups may be unsubstituted or may have a substituent(s));

each of R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 , which may be the same or different, is a saturated or unsaturated monocyclic hydrocarbon ring group, a saturated or unsaturated polycyclic hydrocarbon ring group, a saturated or unsaturated monocyclic heterocyclic group, a saturated or unsaturated polycyclic heterocyclic group (these groups may be unsubstituted or may have a substituent(s)), a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a nitro group, a cyano group, a carboxyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkynyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxycarbonyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted acyl group, or a group represented by the formula: $-OR^9$, $-N(R^{10})R^{11}$, $-C(=O)N(R^{10})R^{11}$, $-S(O)_2N(R^{10})R^{11}$ or $-S(O)_mR^{12}$;

n and m are independently 0, 1 or 2;

R^5 (or R^5 s) and R^7 (or R^7 s), which may be the same or different, and are a saturated or unsaturated monocyclic hydrocarbon ring group, a saturated or unsaturated polycyclic hydrocarbon ring group, a saturated or unsaturated monocyclic heterocyclic group, a saturated or unsaturated polycyclic heterocyclic group (these groups may be unsubstituted or may have a substituent(s)), a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted acyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxycarbonyl group, or a group represented by the formula: $-C(=O)N(R^{10})R^{11}$, $-S(O)_2N(R^{10})R^{11}$ or $-S(O)_mR^{12}$, independently, when it exists more than one;

R^6 (or R^6 's) and R^9 (or R^9 's), which may be the same or different, and are a saturated or unsaturated monocyclic hydrocarbon ring group, a saturated or unsaturated polycyclic hydrocarbon ring group, a saturated or unsaturated monocyclic heterocyclic group, a saturated or unsaturated polycyclic heterocyclic group (these groups may be unsubstituted or may have a substituent(s)), a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted acyl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxy carbonyl group, independently, when it exists more than one;

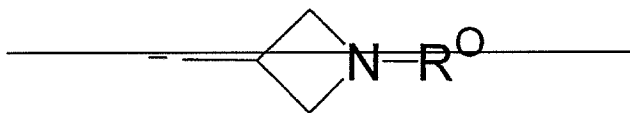
R^{10} (or R^{10} 's) and R^{11} (or R^{11} 's), which may be the same or different, and are a saturated or unsaturated monocyclic hydrocarbon ring group, a saturated or unsaturated polycyclic hydrocarbon ring group, a saturated or unsaturated monocyclic heterocyclic group, a saturated or unsaturated polycyclic heterocyclic group (these groups may be unsubstituted or may have a substituent(s)), a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted acyl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxy carbonyl group, independently, when it exists more than one, or R^{10} and R^{11} , when taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded, represent a saturated 3- to 8-membered cyclic amino group which may contain other heteroatom(s) in the ring (said cyclic amino group may be substituted by one or more substituted or unsubstituted alkyl groups, $-S(O)_mR^{12}$ groups or $-OR^9$ groups); and

R^{12} is a saturated or unsaturated monocyclic hydrocarbon ring group, a saturated or unsaturated polycyclic hydrocarbon ring group, a saturated or unsaturated monocyclic heterocyclic group, a saturated or unsaturated polycyclic heterocyclic group (these groups may be unsubstituted or may have a substituent(s)), a hydrogen atom, or a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group;

~~said compound not including the following compounds:~~

~~(i) compounds in which X is a group represented by the formula: O or S, and Z is pyrrolidin-3-yl having a substituent at the 4-position, piperidin-3-yl having a substituent at the 4-position, piperidin-4-yl having a substituent at the 3-position, homopiperidin-3-yl having a substituent at the 4-position, homopiperidin-4-yl having a substituent at the 5-position, or homopiperidin-4-yl having a substituent at the 3-position, said substituent of each of them being an oxo-group, a hydroxyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxy group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyloxy group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkynyloxy group, a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyloxy group, an alkenyloxy group substituted by a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, an alkynyloxy group substituted by a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryloxy group, a substituted or unsubstituted acyloxy group, a benzyloxycarbonyloxy group, or an alkylcarbamoyloxy group, and~~

~~(ii) compounds in which X is a group represented by the formula: O, and Z is a group represented by the formula:~~



~~wherein R⁰ is a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted carbamoyl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted thiocarbamoyl group,~~

~~a prodrug of said compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound or prodrug.~~

2. (currently amended): A compound, ~~a prodrug thereof~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound ~~or prodrug~~ according to claim 1, wherein X is a group represented by the formula: $-N(R^5)-$, $-C(=O)N(R^6)-$, $-CH_2N(R^5)-$, $-CH_2-$ or $-O-$.

3. (currently amended): A compound, ~~a prodrug thereof~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound ~~or prodrug~~ according to claim 1, wherein X is a group represented by the formula: $-N(R^5)-$.

4. (canceled).

5. (currently amended): A compound, ~~a prodrug thereof~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound ~~or prodrug~~ according to claim 1, 2, or 3 ~~or 4~~, wherein at least one of R^1 and R^3 is a saturated or unsaturated monocyclic hydrocarbon ring group, a saturated or unsaturated polycyclic hydrocarbon ring group, a saturated or unsaturated monocyclic heterocyclic group, a saturated or unsaturated polycyclic heterocyclic group (these groups may be unsubstituted or may have a substituent(s)), a halogen atom, a nitro group, a cyano group, a carboxyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkynyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxycarbonyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted acyl group, or a group represented by the formula: $-OR^9$, $-N(R^{10})R^{11}$, $-C(=O)N(R^{10})R^{11}$, $-S(O)_2N(R^{10})R^{11}$ or $-S(O)_mR^{12}$.

6. (currently amended): A compound, ~~a prodrug thereof~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound ~~or prodrug~~ according to claim 1, 2, or 3 ~~or 4~~, wherein at least one of R^2 and R^4 is a saturated or unsaturated monocyclic hydrocarbon ring group, a saturated or unsaturated polycyclic hydrocarbon ring group, a saturated or unsaturated monocyclic heterocyclic group, a saturated or unsaturated polycyclic heterocyclic group (these groups may be unsubstituted or may have a substituent(s)), a halogen atom, a nitro group, a cyano group, a

carboxyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkynyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxycarbonyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted acyl group, or a group represented by the formula: $-OR^9$, $-N(R^{10})R^{11}$, $-C(=O)N(R^{10})R^{11}$, $-S(O)_2N(R^{10})R^{11}$ or $-S(O)_mR^{12}$.

7. (currently amended): A compound, ~~a prodrug thereof~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound ~~or prodrug~~ according to claim 1, 2, or 3 ~~or 4~~, wherein each of R^1 and R^4 , which may be the same or different, or each of R^3 and R^2 , which may be the same or different, is a saturated or unsaturated monocyclic hydrocarbon ring group, a saturated or unsaturated polycyclic hydrocarbon ring group, a saturated or unsaturated monocyclic heterocyclic group, a saturated or unsaturated polycyclic heterocyclic group (these groups may be unsubstituted or may have a substituent(s)), a halogen atom, a nitro group, a cyano group, a carboxyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkynyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxycarbonyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted acyl group, or a group represented by the formula: $-OR^9$, $-N(R^{10})R^{11}$, $-C(=O)N(R^{10})R^{11}$, $-S(O)_2N(R^{10})R^{11}$ or $-S(O)_mR^{12}$.

8. (currently amended): A compound, ~~a prodrug thereof~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound ~~or prodrug~~ according to claim 1, wherein at least one of R^1 and R^3 is a group represented by the formula: $-OR^9$ or a halogen atom.

9. (currently amended): A compound, ~~a prodrug thereof~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound ~~or prodrug~~ according to claim 1, wherein at least one of R^1 and R^3 is a methoxy group.

10. (currently amended): A compound, ~~a prodrug thereof~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound ~~or prodrug~~ according to claim 1, wherein at least one of R¹ and R³ is a fluorine atom.

11. (currently amended): A compound, ~~a prodrug thereof~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound ~~or prodrug~~ according to claim 1, wherein at least one of R² and R⁴ is a halogen atom.

12. (currently amended): A compound, ~~a prodrug thereof~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound ~~or prodrug~~ according to claim 1, wherein at least one of R² and R⁴ is a chlorine atom.

13. (currently amended): A compound, ~~a prodrug thereof~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound ~~or prodrug~~ according to claim 1, wherein R¹ is a group represented by the formula: -OR⁹ or a halogen atom and R⁴ is a halogen atom; or R³ is a group represented by the formula: -OR⁹ or a halogen atom and R² is a halogen atom.

14. (currently amended): A compound, ~~a prodrug thereof~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound ~~or prodrug~~ according to claim 1, wherein R¹ is a methoxy group and R⁴ is a chlorine atom; or R³ is a methoxy group and R² is a chlorine atom.

15. (currently amended): A compound, ~~a prodrug thereof~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound ~~or prodrug~~ according to claim 1, wherein R¹ is a fluorine atom and R⁴ is a chlorine atom; or R³ is a fluorine atom and R² is a chlorine atom.

16. (currently amended): A compound, ~~a prodrug thereof~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound ~~or prodrug~~ according to claim 1, wherein Z is ~~a substituted or unsubstituted saturated monocyclic heterocyclic group~~ or a substituted saturated monocyclic hydrocarbon ring group, and the substituent(s) of the saturated monocyclic hydrocarbon ring

group is a group represented by the formula: $-N(R^{Z1})R^{Z2}$ wherein R^{Z1} (or R^{Z1} s) and R^{Z2} (or R^{Z2} s), which may be the same or different, and are a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group or a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group, independently, when it exists more than one.

17. (currently amended): A compound, ~~a prodrug thereof~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound ~~or prodrug~~ according to claim 1, said compound being 4-[trans-(4-aminocyclohexyl)amino]-2-fluorobenzamide, 4-[trans-(4-aminocyclohexyl)- amino]-5-chloro-2- fluorobenzamide, 5-chloro-4- {[trans-4- (isopropylamino)cyclohexyl]amino}-2- methoxybenzamide, or 4-[trans-(4-aminocyclohexyl)amino]-2,5-difluorobenzamide ~~or 5-chloro-2-fluoro-4-(piperidin-4-ylamino)benzamide.~~

18. (currently amended): A medicament comprising a compound, ~~a prodrug thereof~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound ~~or prodrug~~ according to claim 1.

19. (currently amended): A Rho kinase inhibitor comprising a compound, ~~a prodrug thereof~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound ~~or prodrug~~ according to claim 1.

20.-22. (canceled).